

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100060015-6

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI TRI

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CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA/OCT/WH12 740625

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

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SOURCE REF:

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INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 25 JUNE 1974

SUBJECT: SOVIET NEGOTIATOR RETURNS TO PEKING

MOSCOW SENT BACK TO PEKING TODAY ITS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ON BORDER ISSUES WITH CHINA. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ILICHEV, WHO HAS REPRESENTED THE SOVIETS SINCE THE TALKS BEGAN IN 1969, HAS NOT BEEN IN PEKING FOR ALMOST A YEAR. THE TIMING OF HIS RETURN STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT ONE OF MOSCOW'S MAIN PURPOSES IS TO DEMONSTRATE, PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, THAT IT CAN STILL DEAL DIRECTLY AND POSSIBLY CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH PEKING.

WITH ILICHEV'S RETURN EVIDENTLY IN MIND, THE SOVIETS HAVE PLACED A LONG ARTICLE IN THE LEADING POLISH NEWSPAPER OUTLINING

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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THE BORDER ISSUE BETWEEN THE USSR AND CHINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE, WHICH IS BEING EXCERPTED BY THE SOVIET MEDIA, IS TO CONVEY THE SOVIET LINE ON THE BORDER PROBLEM WITHOUT DIRECTLY TRYING MOSCOW TO ANY PARTICULAR POSITION AT THIS TIME. THE USE OF THE POLISH STAND-IN PRESUMABLY IS MEANT AS A CONCILIATORY GESTURE.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS OR THE CHINESE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD MOVE THE BORDER TALKS OFF DEAD CENTER. THE POLISH NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, FOR EXAMPLE, REITERATES THE SOVIET POSITION THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD CONFINE THEMSELVES TO "SPECIFYING" THE FRONTIER LINE THAT WAS "LEGALLY ESTABLISHED" BY PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIAN-CHINESE TREATIES. PEKING'S POSITION IS THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD AGREE, BEFORE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN, THAT THE END RESULT SHOULD BE A NEW REALIGNMENT OF THE BORDER. E-2 IMPDET.H

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